

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Serial No. 10/020,830**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A liquid water absorbing mixture comprising a wax containing a superabsorbent and a channeling agent, wherein said superabsorbent is present by weight in the amount of between about ~~5~~ 5% and 90%, wherein said wax is present by weight in the amount of between ~~10~~ about 10% and 85%, and wherein said channeling agent is present by weight in an amount of between about 2% and 40%.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 1 wherein said wax is selected from the group consisting of petroleum based, animal, vegetable and synthetic waxes.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 1 wherein said channeling agent is selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline cellulose, gums, alginates and starches.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 1 wherein said channeling agent is microcrystalline cellulose.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A liquid water absorbing mixture as set forth in claim 1 wherein said superabsorbent is selected from the group consisting of sodium and potassium polyacrylates.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A product comprising a porous member containing a liquid water absorbing mixture of a wax containing a superabsorbent and a channeling agent, wherein said superabsorbent is present by weight in the amount of between about ~~5~~ 5% and 90%, wherein said wax is present by weight in the amount of between ~~10~~ about 10% and 85%, and wherein said channeling agent is present by weight in an amount of between about 2% and 40%.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein said wax is selected from the group consisting of petroleum-based, animal, vegetable and synthetic waxes.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein said channeling agent is selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline cellulose, gums, alginates and starches.

Claim 10 (original): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein said channeling agent is microcrystalline cellulose.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein said superabsorbent is selected from the group consisting of sodium and potassium polyacrylates.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (original): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein said porous member is a string.

Claim 14 (original): A product as set forth in claim 7 wherein said porous member is a form which has been fabricated from a sheet.

Claims 15-19 (canceled)